



6/2/76
UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

V 012 R
TELEGRAM

AN: 0760212-0633

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03641

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 DHA-02 SCCT-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 /043 W
----- 075367

O 021857Z JUN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5873

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date: Declassify on Reason

BUENOS AIRES 3641

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AR

SUBJECT: EX-PRESIDENT TORRES OF BOLIVIA REPORTEDLY KIDNAPPED

REF: SMITH/ZAMBITO TELECON

1. WIFE OF EX-PRESIDENT JUAN JOSE TORRES OF BOLIVIA LAST NIGHT REPORTED TO POLICE THAT HER HUSBAND MISSING. APPARENTLY HE DEPARTED HOUSE ON SEVERAL CALLS YESTERDAY, BUT WAS TO RETURN HOME SHORTLY. HE REPORTEDLY MADE FIRST CALL AND THEN DISAPPEARED. AS OF MOMENT NO FURTHER WORD HAS BEEN HEARD FROM HIM. WIFE, OF COURSE, FEARS HE KIDNAPPED OR WORSE.

2. ACCORDING TO NEWS SOURCE, MRS. TORRES WENT TO BOLIVIAN EMBASSY THIS MORNING TO REPORT EX-PRESIDENT'S DISAPPEARANCE AND TO REQUEST EMBASSY'S INTERVENTION WITH GOA IN LOCATING HIM AND HAVING HIM RETURNED SAFELY. SAME NEWS SOURCE INDICATES EMBASSY AGREED TO TAKE ACTION ON HIS BEHALF. WHETHER THEY DO OR NOT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

3. PRIVATELY, GOA SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER TORRES' DISAPPEARANCE. THEY INSIST GOA NOT RESPONSIBLE BUT THEY WELL-AWARE THAT IT WILL BE BLAMED; HENCE, THEY EXPRESS HOPE THAT TORRES CAN BE FOUND AND RETURNED SAFELY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03641 021927Z

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

4. COMMENT: GOA SOURCES ARE PROBABLY CORRECT. UNLESS
TORRES FOUND QUICKLY, HIS CASE MAY QUICKLY REPLACE THAT OF
MICHELINI AND GUTIERREZ RUIZ AS CAUSE CELEBRE.
HILL

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]